The most important argument which can be made by those who think Alger Hiss innocent is this: many of the State Department papers which Whittaker Chambers produced never went to the office in which Hiss worked; every one of these documents had gone either to the Trade Agreements Division or the Far Eastern Division of the State Department; Chambers had an admitted source of documents—Julian Wadleigh—in the Trade Agreements Division, and there is circumstantial evidence from which it is, in the words of defense counsel, a "reasonable conclusion"[16] that he also had a source in the Far Eastern Division. This is not the way Professor Morris tells the story. First he speaks of "the Far Eastern Division, where Chambers had a demonstrated source of stolen documents."[17] At the next iteration of this tale, we hear of "the Far Eastern Division, where Chambers admittedly had one of his sources. . . ."[18] This claim of an admission by Chambers of what is perhaps the most crucial fact in the whole case is just plain not true.

Morris is also undiscriminating in his presentation of the new evidence which has recently come to light, on the basis of which the defense made its unsuccessful motion for a new trial.[19] Twice he describes in some detail affidavits of experts retained by the defense, which cast great doubt on the Chambers story.[20] Never a word is said, however, to indicate the existence of reply affidavits by the government's experts which attempt to challenge what the defense's people have to say. A reasonable man can find the government affidavits unconvincing; a fair-minded scholar cannot ignore their existence.

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BEHIND THE WALL STREET CURTAIN. By Edward Dies. Washington: Public Affairs Press, 1952. Pp. 153. $2.75.

THE LAWYER'S INVESTMENT MANUAL. By Kenneth Redden and Alexander Thelen. Charlottesville, Va.: The Michie Company, 1952. Pp. xiv, 358. $10.00.

"OF making many books there is no end." These two are among the books which could best have been omitted.

These two books are reviewed together because their titles are calculated to catch the eye of persons interested in investment and financial materials. Whether designedly or not, they fall into the pattern of the large quantity of material being ground out in an attempt to persuade the public that it can understand the securities markets and should be interested in investment therein.

It is stated in a publisher's note about the author of *Behind the Wall Street Curtain* that Mr. Dies "has written this book to dispel popular mis-

16. Brief for Appellant, p. 33, United States v. Hiss, 185 F.2d 822 (2d Cir. 1950).
17. P. 454.
18. P. 455.
19. United States v. Hiss, 107 F. Supp. 128 (S.D.N.Y. 1952).
20. P. 437 n.4; p. 467 n.8.

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conceptions about Wall Street." To accomplish that end the book devotes over two-thirds of its pages to thumb-nail stories of Daniel Drew, Jim Fisk, Jay Gould, Vanderbilt, Carnegie, Rockefeller, Morgan the elder, and lesser figures of the past. The material furnished in each case is so meager that the biographical details can have no interest to students of character. The skimpy accounts of manipulations and other financial transactions are so short as to be unintelligible; in any event, the lack of detail leaves them with no more interest to students of finance than repetitions of "and another redskin bit the dust" would be to a student of military strategy.

After this proportionately over-lengthy account of ancient financial events, one would expect the book to enter upon an organized description of the condition or operations of the securities and commodity markets in modern times. There is, however, no serious attempt at such a description; the book proceeds immediately to a viewing-with-alarm of the fiscal tendencies of recent administrations, and offers some miscellaneous assertions in support of the business and financial community. There is nothing in the way of integrated, factual statement, whether in condemnation or support. It is hard to believe that this material would be valuable or satisfying even to a person predisposed in favor of the general attitudes expressed. In the reviewer's opinion, this book is almost valueless except to the slight extent that the very general account of famous market personages may interest readers who like such popularizations.

Messrs. Redden and Thelen state in their preface to *The Lawyer's Investment Manual* that "this is the only volume in the securities field prepared by lawyers for the special investment needs of lawyers."[1] Their book does not live up to this promising description. The authors' candid acknowledgments disclose that the book is essentially a compilation of a number of pamphlets and miscellaneous writings concerning various aspects of the investment field, prepared by stock brokerage firms, the stock exchanges, corporate house organs, etc. Much of the material is well done, but none of it was specially prepared for lawyers, and most of it is on a very elementary level. Some excerpts from the first page of the book, for instance, indicate its tone: "Securities fall into two broad general classifications—stocks and bonds. When you purchase stocks you buy the right to share in ownership and all of the advantages that it brings. . . . Bonds, on the other hand, place you in the position of a creditor. . . . Generally speaking, although this rule has many exceptions, bonds are the more conservative investment of the two groups."

The only part of the volume at all on an advanced level is a section dealing in question and answer form with certain tax aspects of securities transactions. While this portion of the book takes up some highly technical problems, the treatment is designed for laymen, not for lawyers, and there is no

1. P. iii.

intermediate development of information to bridge the gap between the introductory definitional material and these very abstruse questions. In short, the book is purely a collection of materials chosen because they were already at hand, with only the most casual organization or integration, and with little, if any, connective or other original material supplied by the authors.

The authors express the "hope that the use of this book will thus enable the reader to handle more intelligently his own investment problems as well as those of his clients."[2] The present reviewer can only hope that any lawyer who starts with so little knowledge that he finds this book appreciably informative will realize that he still does not know enough to handle intelligently his own investment problems, let alone those of his clients.

This reviewer cannot resist expressing some concern at the extensive distribution by the stock exchanges and brokerage houses of simplified explanations of the stock and commodity markets, and the vigorous attempt to draw into those markets persons of small means and little financial training. If the campaign is succeeding, persons whose training is still sadly deficient are being told that they know how to invest. But let us take even a sophisticated person who knows much more about the markets and about finance and accounting than he could learn from these primers, and let us assume that he diligently studies a given company's prospectus under the Securities Act of 1933. When he is through with that study, he knows a lot about the company; but is he in a position to determine adequately whether the security offered is a good choice for investment? Obviously not. He still ought to know a good deal more than the typical prospectus alone will tell him about the issuer's competitors and about the relative attractiveness of the issuer's and its competitors' securities within their industry group. More than that, he ought to be better informed about the price-earnings and price-dividend ratios and the long-term outlook of this industry group as against other industry groups which are its competitors for the investment dollar. In brief, it is submitted that not even a person with a relatively sophisticated understanding of financial matters in the abstract can safely handle his own or other persons' investments unless he also has the time to acquire and keep current an extensive factual acquaintance with present and past conditions of a broad range of securities. This means that he ought not to be in the market except with professional assistance acquired either by placing his funds in investment companies (either closed-end or open-end) or by consciously placing himself in the hands of an investment adviser or the equivalent in his bank or brokerage house. Those who undertake to explain the securities markets and teach the uninitiated the meaning of balance sheet and income captions in one easy lesson, and then tell these readers to go out and "analyze" the financial statements of companies before investing, are doing the prospective investors no service.

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2. P. xiii.

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